

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

MICHELINE L. CALLEJA

Claim No. CU - 2964

Decision No. CU 4973

Under the International Claims Settlement  
Act of 1949, as amended

Counsel for claimant:

Martin Budnick, Esq.

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, filed under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of \$188,150.00, was presented by MICHELINE L. CALLEJA and is based upon the asserted loss of real and personal property, and stock interests in Cuba. Claimant has been a national of the United States since birth.

Under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 [78 Stat. 1110 (1964) 22 U.S.C. §§1643-1643k (1964), as amended, 79 Stat. 988 (1965)], the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. Section 503(a) of the Act provides that the Commission shall receive and determine in accordance with applicable substantive law, including international law, the amount and validity of claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba arising since January 1, 1959 for

losses resulting from the nationalization, expropriation, intervention or other taking of, or special measures directed against, property including any rights or interests therein owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly at the time by nationals of the United States.

Section 502(3) of the Act provides:

The term 'property' means any property, right, or interest including any leasehold interest, and debts owed by the Government of Cuba or by enterprises which have been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba and debts which are a charge on property which has been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba.

Section 504 of the Act provides, as to ownership of claims, that

(a) A claim shall not be considered under section 503(a) of this title unless the property on which the claim was based was owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly by a national of the United States on the date of the loss and if considered shall be considered only to the extent the claim has been held by one or more nationals of the United States continuously thereafter until the date of filing with the Commission.

The Regulations of the Commission provide:

The claimant shall be the moving party and shall have the burden of proof on all issues involved in the determination of his claim. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. §531.6(d) (Supp. 1967).)

Claimant has described her losses as house furnishings, \$6,000.00; one-half interest in other properties: engineer's office, \$5,000.00; automobile, \$1,750.00; two mortgages, \$20,000.00; stock interests, \$24,500.00; cattle ranch, \$107,400.00; construction equipment, \$23,500.00. She submitted two affidavits in support but which were not supported by substantiating documentation. By Commission letter of August 7, 1967, claimant was advised, through counsel, as to the type of evidence proper for submission to establish this claim under the Act. Thereafter, by letters of October 20, 1967 and November 15, 1967, the Commission sent follow-up letters. Claimant then sent in two requests for assistance in obtaining evidence, and a list of household furnishings, as well as a categorical inventory of commercial personalty.

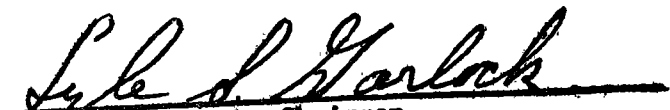
On June 18, 1968, claimant was reminded through counsel that there was no certainty any reports would be received from abroad and that any available evidence should be submitted.

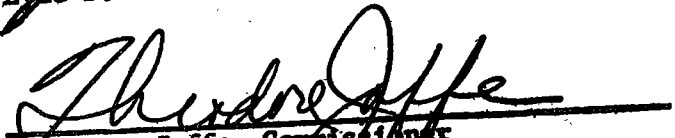
The report received from abroad, concerning a property in Marianao, appears to indicate that insufficient detail precluded an affirmative report. This was sent to counsel on May 8, 1969, and a "follow-up" reminder was sent on April 15, 1970. No response has been received, nor any more detail which might aid in attempting to obtain evidence.

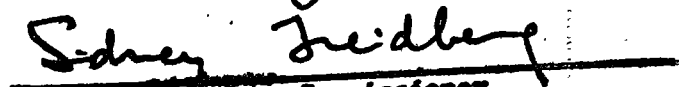
The Commission finds that claimant has not met the burden of proof in that she has failed to establish by probative evidence ownership of rights and interests in property which was nationalized, expropriated or otherwise taken by the Government of Cuba. Thus, the Commission is constrained to deny this claim and it is hereby denied. The Commission deems it unnecessary to make determinations with respect to other elements of the claim.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,  
and entered as the Proposed  
Decision of the Commission

JUN 10 1970

  
Lyle S. Garlock, Chairman

  
Theodore Jaffe, Commissioner

  
Sidney Freidberg, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Proposed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or receipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg., 45 C.F.R. §531.5(e) and (g), as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)